

171
A LETTER to a Member of
PARLIAMENT for Settling GUINEAS.

70.
(67)

Broadside

74(4)

SIR,

I Have Perused the Paper you sent me, Entitled, Guineas at 21 s. 6d. will make Money Plenty.—The People will bear it, &c. And I believe it was Writ by One whose private Interest it is to have them so: He endeavours to answer three Objections.

1. The People will not bear it.
2. It will be carried all away.
3. Not Lent to the KING.

TO the 1st he says, *The People will bear it*; and so say I: They must, if compell'd, whether Willing or no: If it will not breed Discontentments, and Heart-Burning, 'tis Well. For People to lose so Prodigiously by them 'tis very Hard. The Gentleman says, *Not One in a Thousand will be any great Sufferer, throughout the Kingdom*: And yet (within three or four Lines afterwards) he says, *He much pities the Tradesmen, Farmers, and Tenants, both in City and Country*: Not Considering they make above three Parts of the Whole of the Kingdom. I know People are for a Settlement what they shall go for, but not for such a One. This I know, When News came from the House, that it was carried in the Committee at 25 s. I never saw so much Joy and Satisfaction among all People, in the City and Suburbs in my Life, before the other News came that it was thrown out again; and then they were as Dejected. I verily believe, That if they were settled thereabouts for some time, to the next Sessions of Parliament, or a Year, &c. the Taxes would be speedily and cheerfully Paid, and Trading as quick as for Twenty Years last past: 'Tis not amiss to give the People as much Satisfaction and Ease as Possible, under Great Taxes and Dead Trade: And, if the King take them at 25, or 26, and the Deficiency made up by a Tax next Sessions, or otherwise, I Humbly Conceive, it would Content the People better than to lose so much now at once.

Secondly, He says, *It will not be carried away*. I Answer, It will, if Interest will do it; and 'tis Cheaper to carry it to Holland in Specie, than to Remit it thither by Exchange; and Guineas too is Cheaper to be carried thither at 24, or 25 s. than to Remit Money.

Thirdly, *It will be Lent to the KING. And be better for his Majesty by a fifth Part of all the Supplies given him*; and will go a fifth Part farther, I Answer, If it be so, then it is 20 per Cent Gain to the Government, and loss to the Subject; 'tis well if People are so Satisfied—

I Submit the Whole to Your Judgment: But 'tis my Opinion there is a Necessity they be Settled now, or else declare by a Vote, You will not this Sessions meddle with them more, then they will go for about 24, or 25 s. but at present all Trade stands still almost; and will do till one of these two be done.

G. H.